

CLAIMS

1. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack between a dealer and one or more players comprising the steps:

each player posting a main bet to participate in the card game;

each player optionally posting a side bet to become eligible to participate in a bonus payout;

dealing two cards from a deck of cards to each player and two cards to the dealer, one face-up and one face-down;

adopting one or more card values within the dealer's hand as possible activation cards for bonus side bet play;

adopting the player's first two cards dealt as a possible qualifying hand for bonus side bet play;

providing a bonus payout schedule comprising a set of bonus payout values, the bonus payout values being cross-referenced by possible player hand combinations combined with certain card values within the dealer's hand; and resolving each player's side bet according to the bonus payout schedule.

2. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 1, including the step:

playing a round of the conventional game of Blackjack using the two-card hands initially dealt to each player and the dealer.

3. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 1, including the step:

each player exercising or declining the option to post a side bet to become eligible to participate in a bonus payout.

4. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 1, including the step:

adopting the dealer's face-up card as a possible activation card for bonus side bet purposes.

5. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 4, including the step:

declaring bonus play to be activated if the dealer's face-up card is any two, three, four, five or six.

6. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 4, including the step;

declaring bonus play not activated if the dealer's face-up card is any seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king or ace.

7. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 1, including the step:

adopting certain player card combinations as qualifying hands for side bet play.

8. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 7, including the step:

declaring player two card combinations of any soft or hard seventeen, soft or hard eighteen, soft or hard nineteen, soft or hard twenty, Blackjack, nine, ten, or eleven as the only qualifying hands for side bet bonus play.

9. A method of playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 1, including the step:

each player exercising or declining the option to post a side bet for the right to participate in a bonus payout, and upon posting a side bet becoming a bonus-eligible player; and

declaring a bonus-eligible player to be qualified to participate in bonus play if the dealer's face-up card is any two through six; and

awarding a bonus payout to a bonus-eligible player if the dealer's face-up card is any two through six in conjunction with the player's first two cards dealt being any seventeen through twenty, Blackjack, nine, ten or eleven.

10. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack between a dealer and one or more players comprising in combination:

a deck of playing cards;

a hand of first and second playing cards dealable from the deck forming a player hand

a hand of first and second playing cards dealable from the deck forming the dealer's hand;

a playing surface;

one or more player stations disposed on the playing surface, each player station including a first betting spot for receiving a main bet and each player station including a second betting spot for receiving an optional side bet; and

providing a bonus payout schedule comprising a set of bonus payout values, the bonus payout values activated by the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six cross-referenced with the players first two cards being any soft or hard seventeen, soft or hard eighteen, soft or hard nineteen, soft or hard twenty, Blackjack, nine, ten or eleven.

11. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving a two card total value of any soft or hard seventeen, soft or hard eighteen, soft or hard nineteen, or soft or hard twenty on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six.

12. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving a two card total value of any nine, ten or eleven on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six.

13. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving a Blackjack on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six.

14. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving any Ace and King, Ace and Queen, Ace and Jack or Ace and Ten on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six.

15. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 14, whereas:

the player's two card hand is any Ace and King.

16. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving the Ace and King of the same suit, Ace and Queen of the same suit, Ace and Jack of the same suit or Ace and Ten of the same suit on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any two, three, four, five or six.

17. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 16, whereas:

the player's two card hand is the Ace and King of Hearts.

18. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

a bonus payout, displayed on the bonus payout schedule as described in claim 10, will be awarded to a player receiving the Ace and King of the same suit, Ace and Queen of the same suit, Ace and Jack of the same suit or Ace and Ten of the same suit on the first two cards dealt in conjunction with the dealer's face-up card being any 6.

19. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 18, whereas:

the player's two card hand is the Ace and King of Hearts.

20. Apparatus for playing a variation of Blackjack as set forth in claim 10, whereas:

the bonus payout schedule is

Player First 2-card Hand	Dealer Up Card	Pay (to 1)
A of Hearts and K of Hearts	Any 6	200
A and K	2 through 6	18
Blackjack	2 through 6	7
9, 10 or 11	2 through 6	4
17 to 20	2 through 6	2
Blackjack	7, 8, 9, 10, A	1
Alternates		
A of Hearts and K of Hearts	2 through 6	40
A and K	2 through 6	19